EPICS

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS INCIDENT COMMAND SIMULATION

TRADOC ANALYSIS CENTER

Role Player (at left) tells EPICS computer operator how to deploy his crisis reaction forces. Radio headset allows Role Player to interact with Critical Incident Command Staff in real time.

Critical Incident Command Staff receives reports in real time as they would in an actual crisis. Staff formulates plans based on information received from Role Players.

After Action Review (AAR) provides all EPICS exercise participants with valuable insights...

Training for incidents that require contingency plans can be a tremendous logistical challenge. Emergency Preparedness and Incident Command Simulation (EPICS) allows local, state and federal agencies involved in emergency planning and management to perform complex full-scale exercises through the use of an interactive computer simulation. EPICS uses Janus, a computer based, scenario driven, high-resolution, human-in-the-loop simulation, to provide exercises to train local, state, and federal agencies and departments. While facilitating these groups to interact and experience conditions as they would occur in an actual emergency situation, EPICS can train operations command and control personnel, rehearse operations, evaluate operations and contingency plans, analyze systems effectiveness and develop techniques and procedures.

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) has teamed with the US Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) Analysis Center-White Sands Missile Range (TRAC-WSMR) to offer EPICS to the Public Safety community for emergency preparedness training, rehearsal and operational plan validation. Several such exercises have already been successfully conducted. TRAC-WSMR is the software developer of Janus and provides the technical oversight and support for EPICS exercises.

EPICS creates the desired training environment with Janus, a high-resolution computer simulation that represents personnel, equipment and terrain, and is operated by facilitators who provide input to the system based on the directions from incident command leaders and staff. Using the highly refined and accurate modeling capabilities of Janus, planners at all levels are able to realistically evaluate plans to manage or control the response to natural and man-made disasters without disrupting on-going services. By placing existing or planned communications equipment and personnel into the simulated environment, managers and supervisors can empirically evaluate, train and validate the feasibility of staff plans and procedures, and the performance of the various components.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY APPLICATIONS FOR EPICS

- Develop emergency plan
- Validate emergency plan
- Duplicate actual events
- Train leaders and staff
- Exercise actual communications equipment and procedures
- Exercise command and control procedures at different levels

How did it happen?
Why did it happen that way?
What if?